

409 Eleventh St. (Commercial Building)
(Tanen's)
Washington
District of Columbia

HABS No. DC-477

HABS
DC,
WASH,
261-

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

STATE District of Columbia	COUNTY	TOWN OR VICINITY Washington
HISTORIC NAME OF STRUCTURE (INCLUDE SOURCE FOR NAME) 409 Eleventh St. (Commercial Building)		HABS NO. DC-477
SECONDARY OR COMMON NAMES OF STRUCTURE Tanen's		
COMPLETE ADDRESS (DESCRIBE LOCATION FOR RURAL SITES) 409 Eleventh Street, N.W., Washington, D.C., Square 348, Lot 807		
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE SOURCE) 1886 (Permit #1944, 4/24/86)	ARCHITECT(S) (INCLUDE SOURCE) Cooper and Fenwick, D.C. (Permit #1944, 4/24/86)	
SIGNIFICANCE (ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL, INCLUDE ORIGINAL USE OF STRUCTURE) This structure is located in the Pennsylvania Avenue Historic District. The proportions of the facade are consistent with the adjacent buildings so the rhythm of the block is maintained. The moderne facade treatment of the stuccoed surfaces and banded windows are, however, an inappropriate alteration to the building in its Eleventh Street context.		
STYLE (IF APPROPRIATE)		
MATERIAL OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE STRUCTURAL SYSTEMS) Brick foundations, party walls, brick piers; wooden floor joists; facade of pressed brick under stucco.		
SHAPE AND DIMENSIONS OF STRUCTURE (SKETCHED FLOOR PLANS ON SEPARATE PAGES ARE ACCEPTABLE) Rectangular in shape, 409 Eleventh Street measures 22'6" x 100', including all alterations. The building is three stories tall with a basement and is four bays wide.		
EXTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE Stripped of its original detailing, Tanen's facade now contains little ornamentation. The windows on the second and third floor are encased in a wood frame running almost the width of the building. No other framing exists. Windows are one-over-one double-hung sash. The cornice is a simple molding. The facade is stuccoed and painted white. Framing is red.		
INTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE (DESCRIBE FLOOR PLANS, IF NOT SKETCHED)		
MAJOR ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS WITH DATES Building Permits cited are as follows: (see attached)		
PRESENT CONDITION AND USE The street level is used as a retail electronics store, Upper floors are vacant. The building is in overall fair condition.		
OTHER INFORMATION AS APPROPRIATE 409 Eleventh Street functioned for many years as an awning factory. Previously it was a private dwelling, as it was intended when constructed. See also DC-493 (SQUARE 348) for additional information.		
SOURCES OF INFORMATION (INCLUDE LISTING ON NATIONAL REGISTER, STATE REGISTERS, ETC.) District of Columbia Recorder of Deeds; District of Columbia General Assessment Records, Tax Records, and Building Permits, National Archives; Baist's Atlas of Washington, Martin Luther King Library, Washingtoniana Room, Washington, D.C.		
COMPILER, AFFILIATION W.F. Hunter, Pennsylvania Avenue Development Corporation		DATE February 1981

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Major Alterations and Additions With Dates (cont'd)

- 3/9/95 #1272 - at rear of building, to excavate under back building and underpin walls with 18 inches of cement mortar.
- 5/5/03 #1723 - build three story back building, 27'6" x 21' 0"; add story on present back building; change stairway.
- 10/19/05 #1151½ - install coal chute into coal vault.
- 3/9/12 #3915 - remove wooden cornice from front of building (cornice runs between first and second stories across width of building) and put in galvanized iron cornice. (Daily reports show removal on 3/14/12, but no record exists of installation of galvanized iron cornice.)
- 1/17/46 #282323 - remodel front, remove present show window, install two new; Architect Clifton B. White, Contractor W.B. Avery.